

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12964

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, NI, ZA
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO AFRICA: NIGERIA
AND ZAMBIA

REFS: A) LAGOS 8101; B) LAGOS 8462; C) LUSAKA 2346;
D) BONN 12329; E) BONN 12396

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FIRST VISIT OF A GERMAN CHANCELLOR
TO AFRICA IS VIEWED IN BONN AS A SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS.
TIMING OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S TRIP WAS MOST OPPORTUNE,
GIVING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH
THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY MOST IMPORTANT TO THE FRG
ECONOMICALLY -- NIGERIA -- AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH
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ONE OF AFRICA'S LEADING PERSONALITIES -- KUANDA. THE
SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF MOST
CONVERSATIONS. SCHMIDT WAS OUTSPOKEN IN DEFENDING THE
FRG'S AFRICAN POLICY AND RESISTED NIGERIAN PRESSURE TO
CUT ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IN ZAMBIA THE
CHANCELLOR DEVELOPED CLOSE PERSONAL RAPPORT WITH
KUANDA AND INFORMED HIM ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN

THE NAMIBIA INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE VIEW OF OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS THE TIMING OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO AFRICA COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER, EVEN THOUGH THE DATES HAD ALREADY BEEN SELECTED IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR. AS A RESULT, SCHMIDT WAS ABLE PERSONALLY TO EXPLAIN THE LATEST ASPECTS OF THE FIVE'S NAMIBIA INITIATIVE AND ALSO TO ADDRESS HIS HOSTS' CONCERNS REGARDING WESTERN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, IN THE WAKE OF SHABA II. IN THE PLANNING FOR THE VISIT, THE FRG HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO BALANCE THE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT IN EACH OF THE TWO CAPITALS. NIGERIA WAS VISITED FIRST (JUNE 26-28), FOLLOWED BY ZAMBIA (JUNE 28-30), WITH A SHORT REFUELING STOP SCHEDULED IN LAGOS ON THE CHANCELLOR'S RETURN TO GERMANY ON JUNE 30. THE CHANCELLOR'S PARTY INCLUDED MRS. SCHMIDT, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION OFFERGELD, AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE CHANCELLERY AND FOREIGN OFFICE.

2. EMBASSY LAGOS, IN REFTEL A, HAS PROVIDED A GOOD SUMMARY OF SCHMIDT'S ITINERARY IN NIGERIA. SUPPLEMENTING THAT REPORT, OUR CONTACTS NOTE ALSO THAT THERE WERE MORE TALKS WITH THE NIGERIANS THAN HAD BEEN ENVISIONED. ALTHOUGH BOTH THE NIGERIAN AND FRG PRESS MADE MENTION OF SCHMIDT'S ALLEGED HARD AND AGGRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR CONTACTS WHO WERE PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS REPORT THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S APPROACH WAS FIRM, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ABRASIVE. IT IS THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S VIEW THAT HIS PERFORMANCE WAS WELL RECEIVED AND, ONCE BOTH SIDES HAD VOICED THEIR VIEWS ON THE POINTS ON WHICH NO AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE, THE AIR WAS CLEAR FOR VERY PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

3. OFFICIALLY, TWO DOCUMENTS OF NOTE RESULTED FROM THE LAGOS STOP. ONE WAS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (REPORTED IN REFTEL D, BONN 12329). THE OTHER WAS THE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH BEFORE THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THAT SPEECH (HIGHLIGHTS REPORTED SEPTTEL) HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO US AS THE GERMAN EQUIVALENT TO THE SECRETARY'S ATLANTIC CITY SPEECH ON AFRICA.

4. THE GERMAN PRE-TRIP PLANNING HAD MADE NO ALLOWANCE FOR A GERMAN-NIGERIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE. THIS SUBJECT WAS BROACHED BY OBASANJO DIRECTLY TO THE CHANCELLOR AND THE CHANCELLOR, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIS DELEGATION, QUICKLY AGREED. THE FIRST MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN SET.

5. SCHMIDT AND OBASANJO EXCHANGED VIEWS AT LENGTH ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THOSE TALKS, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN PASSED ON

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THROUGH THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK, UNDERSCORE NIGERIAN AGREEMENT WITH SWAPO ON THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY. OBASANJO PUSHED HARD FOR AN END TO GERMAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND SCHMIDT RESISTED.

6. AS REPORTED REFTEL A, THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND RAISED THE TOPIC OF OTRAG. HE UNDERSCORED THE FACT THAT OTRAG IS A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER WITH THE FRG. THE NIGERIANS SEEMED TO HAVE ONLY MINIMAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROJECT AND RAISED NO SUBSTANTIAL QUESTIONS.

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7. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA WAS HIS INTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT KUANDA. THE TWO LEADERS SPENT OVER 12 HOURS TOGETHER AND ESTABLISHED A CLOSE RAPPORT. THE DETAILS OF THEIR TALKS ON NAMIBIA HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED TO THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK. IN GENERAL, SCHMIDT FOUND KUANDA SUPPORTIVE OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE; ADVISOR MARK CHONA TOLD ONE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION THAT KUANDA WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY THE FIVE HAD ATTEMPTED TO MEET AFRICAN CONCERNS REGARDING THE UNSC DECLARATION ON WALVIS BAY.

8. ON RHODESIA, KUANDA ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT COMPLETELY SHARE THE SAME VIEWS AS NKOMO AND MUGABE. KUANDA SAID THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN RHODESIA WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO FREE ELECTIONS. INSTEAD, KUANDA FAVORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD REMAIN IN POWER FOR "SEVERAL YEARS" BEFORE ELECTIONS COULD BE CALLED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF NAMES TO BE REPRESENTED IN THIS INTERIM REGIME, BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT SITHOLE AND MUZEREWAZI WERE TO BE INCLUDED, AS WELL AS THE PF.

9. KUANDA ACCUSED THE FRG OF STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA BY MAINTAINING TRADE RELATIONS. SCHMIDT'S ANSWER, WHICH QUIETED KUANDA ON THIS POINT FOR THE REST OF THE VISIT, WAS THAT TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA -- A REGIME, THE INTERNAL POLICIES OF WHICH HE OPPOSED -- WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND NO ONE ASKED THAT TRADE WITH

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THE SOVIETS BE CUT OFF.

10. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, THE CHANCELLOR AND COOPERATION MINISTER OFFERGELD PLEDGED TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION -- EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS, PRIVATE INVESTMENT, ETC. SCHMIDT PROMISED TO RAISE WITH HIS EC COLLEAGUES THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING COPPER INTO THE STABEX SYSTEM UNDER THE LOME II

AGREEMENT.

11. GERMAN PRE-TRIP PLANNING HAD CALLED FOR A REFUELING STOP IN NIGERIA AFTER DEPARTURE FROM ZAMBIA ON JUNE 30. IN THIS WAY, THE FRG HOPED TO AVOID PROTOCOL PROBLEMS AND OTHER DELAYS; THERE WAS TO BE NO OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THE NIGERIANS AT THE AIRPORT AND THE CHANCELLOR DID NOT PLAN TO DISEMBARK FROM THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, AS THE PLANE APPROACHED LAGOS ON ITS RETURN FLIGHT, THE FRG DELEGATION WAS INFORMED THAT OBASANJO HAD DECIDED TO COME TO THE AIRPORT TO CONTINUE HIS TALKS WITH SCHMIDT. WE UNDERSTAND HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO RAISE. THE GERMANS, HOWEVER, CONSIDER OBASANJO'S GESTURE AS AN INDICATION THAT THE NIGERIANS WERE GENUINELY IMPRESSED BY THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT.

12. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT MANY OF THE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING SCHMIDT (PARTICULARLY FROM THE CHANCELLERY) CAME AWAY FROM THE VISIT WITH A FULLER APPRECIATION FOR AFRICA AND ITS PROBLEMS. OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS HAVE PRIVATELY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE STRONG EAST-WEST FOCUS OF THEIR CHANCELLERY COLLEAGUES AND HOPE THAT THIS NEW-FOUND APPRECIATION WILL NOT DISSIPATE TOO QUICKLY.
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